

FOUNDATION IN SEARCH OF OFFICE SPACE TO AID THOSE FACING CANCER

By Carisa Biesecker



LED BY THE MOTTO, "CANCER IS SERIOUS, CAMP IS SERIOUS FUN," FACES OF COURAGE FOUNDATION, INC. SEEKS TO PROVIDE RESPITE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN FACING CANCER OR A BLOOD DISORDER, A COMMITMENT IT NEEDS THE COMMUNITY'S HELP WITH IN ORDER TO CONTINUE.

At the bottom of Peggy Sherry's e-mail reads the acronym, "STRIVE: start small, think possibilities, reach beyond your known abilities, invest all you have in your dream, visualize miracles, expect to experience success," something she herself has done through the creation of the Faces of Courage Foundation, Inc.



closed in 2003 by the founder who believed Sherry would not be able to handle the endeavor after being diagnosed with cancer in both breasts and having

to undergo treatment. "...just weeks after my double mastectomy, I started Faces of Courage Foundation with \$100,000, inheritance from my parents - both of which had cancer," comments Sherry. "Six years later, we have more than 700 volunteers and some 4,000 campers. Annually we serve 1,500 campers," Sherry adds in regard to the local Women's Cancer Retreat held in September at Rotary's Camp Florida in Brandon. Its registration filled in a matter of two days, enrolling some 80 women. She hopes campers pull away the "realization that they are not alone and that they can and will fight this disease. We have 2, five-time survivors who are volunteers that show them that they can do it."

Currently, the organization is hoping to purchase 46 acres in Land O' Lakes to host camps at, setting a \$5 million goal for its staff and volunteers to reach. She mentions, "We need help keeping these programs going."

Those interested in helping the foundation's plight can do so through monetary donations, taking a place amongst the board of directors or the Camp Courage Build committee, volunteering at the camp or becoming a sponsor. For more information, e-mail psherry@facesofcourage.org or call 877-CAMP (2267) or visit www.facesofcourage.org.

VISITS FROM A PET PROVIDES THERAPEUTIC RELIEF TO PATIENTS

Jessica Leigh Jones

With a wagging tail and panting tongue, Mack, a 4-year-old boxer, excitedly rides with Barbie Frost to South Florida Baptist Hospital (SFBH) for pet therapy.

Once he passes through the automatic doors, Mack heads straight to the pharmacy for his weekly dose of treats, bottled water and a little love-in' from Pharmacy Technician Kimmy Staten.

"Mack always has to start with a visit to his girlfriend, Kimmy," Frost said, explaining his usual route around the hospital.

His tummy full, Mack continued with Frost to visit the patients upstairs. At room 324, they stopped to speak with patient Otis E. Schofield, sitting just inside the door.

"Good evening," Frost greeted him, "Mack would love to visit with you tonight. Do you like dogs?"

Schofield's face brightened as he answered yes and got to rub on the soft, lovable animal.

"You must have pets yourself," Frost said.

"I used to be a mailman," Schofield said, "and I met lots of dogs along my route."

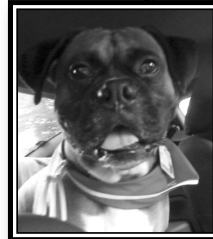
He smiled at the memory. "A few gave me a hard time, but most were just as friendly as Mack," he said.

Pet Therapy, a volunteer program at SFBH in Plant City, allows patients to experience the comfort and joy of a visit from a gentle pet.

The pets' owners play a role in the therapy, too. During their visits, Frost gets to speak to and hear stories from the



PATIENT DOMINGA ENJOYS A LAUGH WITH PET THERAPY VOLUNTEER BARBIE FROST AND HER BOXER, MACK.



patients, usually about their own pets at home.

"I've never been too good with small talk," said Frost. "But having Mack around gives us plenty to talk about."

Patients can cuddle with the dogs and share their own pet stories with Frost. Even the nurses and doctors enjoy their time with Mack.

"Mack and I get as much enjoyment out of this time as the patients and staff," said Frost.

All participating dogs must receive a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certification from the American Kennel Club before getting involved at SFBH.

This program is currently open to dogs only. For more information, please contact Pet Therapy point person for SFBH, at BarbieFrost@Verizon.net or 625-8366.

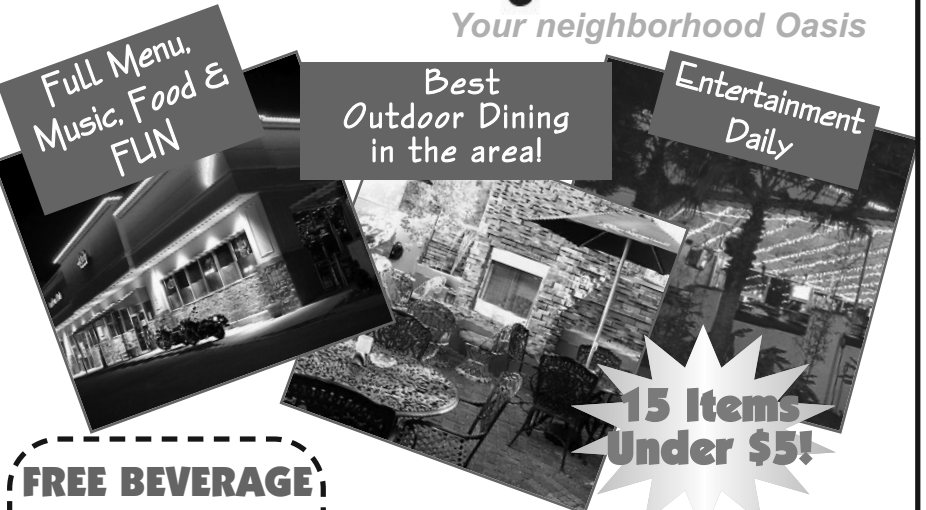
"Pet therapy's a lot of work, but it's rewarding for all of us," said Frost, as a sprawled out Mack echoed his agreement in contented snores from the backseat.

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